

HONORING THE PORTOPERA ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate PORTopera on its 20th anniversary season.

Since 1994, PORTopera has been the only company in the State of Maine performing fully staged operas with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. It has provided unduplicated opportunities to enjoy creative, inspiring opera that showcases excellence and brings the brightest stars and musical professionals to Maine.

PORTopera has generated critical acclaim from national publications, including its 2012 production of *Madama Butterfly* by Opera News and 2001's *Le Nozze di Figaro* by the Boston Globe. PORTopera has also been involved in educating upcoming generations who dream of performing in the theater through the opera-in-schools program with the University of Southern Maine and the Young Artists Program.

I am proud of PORTopera's commitment to developing and expanding the arts in Maine on many levels. The company has enriched Portland and the State of Maine culturally and has maintained a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence for two decades. Its work is critical to the quality of life we enjoy in our State.

As Maine's creative culture continues to develop and receive national attention, I am proud to recognize PORTopera for its leadership and success.

Bravo!

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TROY BOWLING

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Troy Bowling of Lexington, Kentucky. His military service during World War II and his continued commitment to supporting our veterans and the men and women in uniform is an inspiration to us all.

At age 19, Mr. Bowling began his service as a United States Marine and was a proud member of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division. During the United States' campaign to end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo Jima. While attempting to secure Mt. Suribachi, his unit came under intense and concentrated fire, completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him critically wounded on the battlefield. At that moment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens and committed to serving mankind for the rest of his life if he survived.

Miraculously, a combat photographer and medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety of a landing craft where he witnessed

the planting of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic image that persists as one of the most legendary and triumphant moments of the war. The U.S. Marines eventually took control of the island; however, this victory came at a heavy cost as over 6,800 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima.

In keeping faith with his commitment to God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling has since devoted over 73,000 hours of volunteer service to others at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For over 63 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization, holding nearly every position possible including State Commander.

The Bible teaches in Proverbs 21:21 that, "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Mr. Bowling has brought great honor upon himself through his dedication, determination, and love for serving the people of our community. Without a doubt, he has remained true to the commitment he made on the rocky terrain of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Bowling embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and commitment to serving others—never abandoning the Marine motto of *Semper Fidelis*, "Always Faithful." I would like to thank Mr. Bowling for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error on rollcall 38, my vote was inaccurately recorded as "yea." I have always been a vocal and firm supporter of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) waivers, which save taxpayer dollars and decrease red tape by allowing federal agencies to approve the use of federal public land for recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting without needless process and paperwork that has no benefit to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

I would like to state that my intended vote was "nay" for rollcall 38—On Agreeing to Amendment No. 6 by DEFAZIO of Oregon.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" SINKIN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William "Bill" Sinkin, a truly remarkable citizen of San Antonio. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Sinkin dedicated himself to improving and serving the city of San Antonio.

For almost 70 years, Mr. Sinkin dedicated his life to civic accomplishments and advocating for all citizens of San Antonio. He had a true passion for people, diversity, and innovation. Mr. Sinkin helped put San Antonio on the map as a tourist destination with his lead-

ership role in creating HemisFair, a celebration of San Antonio's 250th anniversary and the first world fair to be held in Texas. Mr. Sinkin had a first-hand role in the redevelopment of HemisFair Park which eventually led to the Institute of Texan cultures, the Convention Center, and the River Walk.

Mr. Sinkin was a groundbreaking chairman of the San Antonio Housing Authority where he added 2,500 new housing units to the city, promoted diversity and hired the organization's first female executive director. He co-founded the Goodwill Industries of San Antonio in 1946, and provided employment opportunities for those affected with mental and physical disabilities and founded the Urban Coalition of San Antonio to address issues affecting low income communities.

Mr. Sinkin was a civic leader and active voice for the community throughout his entire life. As a banker, he advocated for racial equality, minority hiring, and business development by increasing minority representation and small business lending. In the way he lived his life, in the relationships he cultivated, and in the community groups he belonged to and nurtured, Mr. Sinkin fostered greater understanding between people from different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Enduring relationships were created in the Jewish-Latino and Black-Jewish Dialogues which he was instrumental in starting.

As a pioneer and avid supporter of alternative energy, Mr. Sinkin worked to raise awareness about solar power. He founded Solar San Antonio in 1999, which promotes the use of solar electricity as a major source of power and launched Metropolitan Partnership for Energy which became Build San Antonio Green. Mr. Sinkin's efforts in alternative energy led to San Antonio being designated as a Solar America City.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Bill Sinkin. His extensive record of service and achievement has truly impacted many lives and our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAN B. KIMBALL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in order to celebrate the service and accomplishments of Mr. Dan B. Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Parks. After 10 years, Dan will be retiring in March 2014.

During his tenure as superintendent, Dan consistently demonstrated his expertise and unwavering commitment to the preservation of our national parks. Upon his arrival in 2004, he was entrusted with managing the park's involvement in the restoration of the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. He and his team faced complex challenges with skill and resolve, making invaluable contributions to the ongoing defense of the Everglades and to the balance of Florida's ecosystem.

A 20-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Dan also served as the Chief